



TASK FORCE FALCON



Falcon Flier

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Army Chief of Staff pays a visit to Kosovo

"It is about professionalism, and leadership. The way we taught leadership in our formations. Lives are on the line, and people are counting on us."
-Gen. Eric Shinseki-



Pg. 6

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Martin J. Cervantez
Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki awards the Army Commendation Medal to Pfc. Joshua Beavers of C Troop 1st Cavalry Regiment from Ft Stewart, Georgia on October 5, 2001. Gen. Shinseki visited Kosovo to address soldiers of TFF and present awards and coins to a number of soldiers currently deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian II.



Pg. 16

Photo by Spc. Engels Tejeda

Tae-Bo's Billy Blanks leads soldiers through his Tea-Bo workout routines. Blanks visited Kosovo as part of "The 2001 Spirit & Body Tour."



Pg. 8, 9 Combat Camera

Photo by Pfc. Marshall Emerson

left: Children from a school in Ferizaj/Urosevac, give a thumbs-up to show their excitement for the soldiers who serve them on a MEDCAP.

right: Pfc. Jesse Vautour, an infantryman in D Company of the 3-502nd Infantry Regiment, mans the 50 cal. machine gun while escorting a bus to CAS.



Photo by Pfc. Marshall Thompson



Leave it better than you found it

**Story by Brig. Gen. Bill David
Task Force Falcon Commander**

It's on everyone's mind right now. It's one of the most important tasks any soldier will be called upon to perform. When done well, it ensures organizational success well into the future. It's part of one of those goals we set for ourselves five months ago – making this place better than it was when we got here.

I'm talking about our Relief In Place. That's "RIP" for short.

Now, don't confuse this RIP with "Rest In Peace." To the contrary, our RIP will require lots of work as we set the conditions for our successors and Kosovo. I want to emphasize some important things you should discuss when handing over your fighting position.

Infantry Platoon Sergeants will tell you that one of the most important things to go over with your replacement is the communications plan. You know how difficult it was when you first arrived to find the right person who could give you assistance. Make clear to your replacement who and how to call when help is needed. Talk about our international partners and our higher headquarters. Explain reports and procedures.

They will be given tools that they have never used before. Spend time on communications because it is the number one cause of problems in most organizations.

When our replacements arrive they will be disoriented and jet lagged. You remember how that was. The change in weather may be a factor for many. Fatigue and stress dictate the importance of identification card and weapons security and safety.

The key here is to integrate replacements at a pace that is safe and secure.

Explain lessons learned. You know that there are left and right limits and dead space – places where there is potential for trouble. Make your replacement aware of these danger areas but be willing to allow them to use new ideas and capabilities to cover what will ultimately become their lane.

This is definitely not the time to rest in place. As I have emphasized previously, be vigilant.

Be flexible and energetic. Work with the chain of command to identify and solve problems.

Turn your fighting position over to your replacement with pride in the fact that you have made it better than it was.

Be Relentless!

Taking care of soldiers allowed this organization to soar to new heights

**Story by
Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill
Task Force Falcon CSM**

A key component of success is the ability of an organization to take care of soldiers. This has been the wind beneath this Task Force Falcon's wings. Taking care of soldiers has allowed this organization to soar to new heights during one of the most challenging times in our nation's history.

I have had the opportunity to visit troops in the field. Their sweat, intermingled with dirt and exhaustion has been the down payment on Kosovo's future. I will tell you that their morale has been high throughout this operation because of the support they receive.

I thought that it was appropriate before our time together runs out for me to do something meaningful for those who have provided support to our soldiers. I want to say two simple words. Thank you.

Now, those two words alone don't convey my emotions as strongly as the gratitude I feel. After all, the phrase is used in every day matters practically every place you go.

So, know for certain that I am infinitely impressed and sincerely grateful for your contributions to the soldiers of Task Force Falcon.

AAFES contributed to our soldiers at every opportunity. They lived up to their motto and took pride in "serving the best customers in the world."

MWR bent over backwards to entertain. They were there especially when conditions prevented soldiers from leaving the wire.

BRS was tested from the moment we arrived. You responded every time. From upgrading remote sites to readying for President Bush, you were there when we needed you.

DPW responded to soldier requests and prioritized to meet individual and unit needs. Remarkable.



G-1 worked diligently to enable personnel actions. Every emergency action and reward was handled with care and concern. A real enabler.

G-2 does so much to take care of soldiers. Notably though, the protection of key facilities and the conviction that is leveled on security sets a tone for the whole task force.

G-3 has applied importance in writing plans and orders for soldier welfare initiatives equal to major tactical operations. This is a credit to their office.

G-3 (Air) studs and studette, got me around in sector to talk to the troops. You made it work every time.

G-4 and the whole 3rd LTF is on time with whatever we need, whenever it is needed. Come roadblock or any other challenge – they're always ready to roll.

G-5 has been supportive in developing new opportunities for soldiers. They have been movers and shakers for communicating with key civilians.

G-6 has been able to keep us communicating. This is a key capability when it comes to taking care of soldiers.

Our task force lawyers have offered sound advice to the commander and I. They have helped soldiers directly and helped us help soldiers.

Our Chaplain is the other half of that advisory team that helps the commander assess morale. The chaplain is there when the Command Sergeant Major is not. This I believe, was always key.

And our Public Affairs Office – keeping the task force and the world informed. I can't say enough about you all. You were terrific for us all.

Thank you each and every one.
Be Relentless!

Falcon Flier

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The Chawgs of War take over Kosovo's "Chicken Leg"

**Story by
Spc. Engels Tejeda
358th MPAD**

The "Chawgs of War" of C Company, 3-7th Infantry Regiment, have spread their claws and taken over the entire "Chicken Leg" region of Kosovo.

During the month of September, the Chawgs closed down Observation Point Terminator near the Kosovo-Serbia boundary and adopted the rest of the "Chicken Leg" from B Company 2-502nd Infantry Regiment.

"Our main mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for the towns of Zegra, Pasjane, and Vlastica," said Capt. John Snow, commander of C Company.

In addition to providing

safety for these three major towns, the Chawgs also ensure security for several smaller municipalities and sectors, among which is the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border area located south of Zegra/Zheger.

The Chawgs have been partially in the sector since the beginning of the rotation, with soldiers serving out of a small outpost known as Red Base. Now, they have full domain of the "Chicken Leg," with their immediate headquarters located at Zegra/Zheger Fire Base.

"I like it out here," said Pvt. Marcus Williams, dismount patrolter with C Company. "We are pretty much on our own."

The soldiers said that they enjoy working in the sector and being based out of Zegra/Zheger. They said that while the accommodations are not as comfortable as are those at Camp

Monteith, they like the fact that they are in their "own sector."

The territory also has demanding aspects. Staff Sgt. Raleigh Heekin, squad leader with C Company, said the soldiers at Red Base work on a rotation system.

During these rotations the soldiers provide base security, traffic control point operations, and both dismounted and mounted patrols throughout the area.

In addition, the Chawgs have to be prepared to face spontaneous incidents.

Such was the case a few months ago when the soldiers from Red Base were attempting to open a road between two towns, and the citizens of the towns began demonstrations against the operation.

Also, it was in the Zegra/Zheger area that soldiers of the 2-502nd Infantry Regiment encountered hostile fire from unknown individuals who were trying to cross the border illegally.

Snow said that while he believed these to be "isolated incidents," he has raised security levels of force protection in the area.

"The job is tuff on everybody," said the Chawgs 1st Sgt. Edwin Garcia. "We (are part of) a peacekeeping mission, but we have to always be prepared for the worst."

In spite of the challenges, however, the Chawgs insist that the mission is "too easy." They said that they train for war, and that a peacekeeping mission like this one is a "walk in the park."

"This mission is important because we can make people feel safe," said Williams.

"It makes me feel good to

actually be a part of making these people's lives better," added Heekin.

Heekin said that he was exceptionally impressed to see how the local population has made a "one hundred percent turn-around" since he arrived to Kosovo.

Heekin also said that when he arrived the majority of the local adults would not even speak to the soldiers; yet now, they seem to care for the soldiers and even the soldier's families.

"I was really touched by how they responded to the September 11 attacks on D.C. and New York," said Heekin. "They let us know that they were sorry, and it showed that they (care) about us."

Garcia said that it is not surprising to see the local citizens respond to the soldiers in a positive manner, for everywhere they go, the Chawgs make a good impression on the population.

The response the soldiers are getting from the local citizens is one of several motivating factors for the Chawgs.

Garcia said that the soldiers seemed particularly motivated because they will see their families soon, hopefully in November. He said the soldiers also do other activities to keep morale high.

Snow said that he was confident his soldiers would do as well in the Chicken Leg, as they did at Terminator.

"They've worked very hard," said Snow. "I've been very proud of both their endurance, and (how) they've maintained their professionalism."



Soldiers of C Company of the 3-7th Infantry Regiment prepare for a dismounted patrol out of Red Base. The "Chawgs of War" recently took over the entire "Chicken Leg" region of Kosovo.

The 502nd Infantry Regiment honors its traditions and history



Col. Robert E. Jones, honorary commander of the 502nd Infantry Regiment, talks with a soldier about the mission in Kosovo.

**Story and photo by
Spc. Marshall Thompson
358th MPAD**

"Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response." – Arthur M. Schlesinger, American historian.

In a day when science and technology have revolutionized the way the Army fights wars, it's seems to be more important than ever to remember the history and the traditions that put the Army where it is today. That's why retired Col. Robert E. Jones, honorary commander of the 502nd Infantry Regiment, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Harvey P. Appleman, honorary command sergeant major of the 502nd, recently visited troops in Kosovo.

Jones and Appleman told soldiers from the 502nd in Vitina/Viti that they decided to come to Kosovo to provide the soldiers with a link to their past.

Jones has the honor of being one of the original members of the newly formed 502nd when they jumped into France during WWII. He continued and fully participated in Korea and Vietnam.

Appleman really brought the history to life for the soldiers he visited with his colorful

stories of famous soldiers in Korea and Vietnam. He meticulously documented the whole visit with his faithful video camera, interviewing soldiers from all over Task Force Falcon.

"They carried themselves so well and they both seemed so proud to wear their combat patches from the 101st [Airborne Division (Air Assault)]," said Pfc. Ryan Smith, a combat engineer with the 326th Engineer Battalion attached to the 502nd Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Demetrius McNeil, one of the honored visitors' escorts from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 502nd Infantry Regiment, said that it was a lot of work coordinating the visit, but it was worth it in the end.

"It will basically give the soldiers encouragement. It will give them that sense of realism, that stuff like that did happen," said McNeil. "Not only did it make the 502nd look good, but it gave the soldiers an uplift – a morale boost."

The visit seemed to raise the morale of many of the soldiers as the two seasoned veterans mixed with the young soldiers.

"I think it's great that they decided to show up and that they came to share their experiences and stories with us. It gave us something to look forward to and showed us how far we can go if we really apply ourselves," Smith said.

Wordsearch: *Camp Bondsteel's Nightmares*

TEMKTDRODNKDMSTJTFUNLAZDDPSDVKOTWVFVNDHGBE
TVAREKLATSTHGINEHTHEBLAIRWITCHPROJECTAJY
SEIBMOZEGANEETASAWIHTYBFZFHLHXXXKSZEUAVRB
KVLVWGTQSNNGGAHQIEOLZCCHILDREN OF THE DAMNED
V I I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER NC WNC ET FWSBFO
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AABNRGBBNZTCANDYMAN KIC DATIRJGEITHEBLOBCXG
UDVAETUCAAPEFWNAEBTKVLUFRIGHTNIGHTTFQEZS
EEWMDGFELIZRCOEZLAGPLRQHCITTAEHTPSHEKQFL
VIJEDKFBGVWOXLEBIPSN EOEDVFEMCFXS YRINJAER
TRULAGYIIIEGMULWB AVSFKWSKOREAESHM XINI QMTI
QUNBLITTALWRT OOFYGRDGE BESSTREXMULFGEQBOG
SBOISFHTELSDQH LFR OHDL CRIRAUETUSNKTSTSTZJE
NIDSBC EESERFPYLP MUWYEIIIOCOBBMEWSNAOSFASH
ZANIOSVNOCEOYPATEIOSPPHOTEREINZTQETNREXT
RHOVCVALIENDOEH HBGIMJSMCHFHFIPELVAAEEOSS
VELNAHMA SHINIEWEROEKSBLTETAOV TURAO DKSFXS
CZNIJSPUCTLABLCARRIESVLXFHCRESF GHLUNIDJI
XFIERJIA GFTLNSGWIGLCORFOAGHENISOIKEAAREK
CTFHYMROQGASZFD AEDLIVEEXLIICDRZHDSE RREYR
OTLTGAELNCLICOUKAMAQPSAPLNLHOHNOLNKFLPEP
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DGRWMGYMCOWBHGDNOHMGSAJLHMNTYXDLNEUDKETF
RIEN OFE VIGITIEJGTDOAYYA FEEOMSONXDTPILHHO
ANWOSRRLVTFFOLBBRINGITONHDFAWUBMSC LRETET
CLNFIRCJSOYFIEUOFIKYE PJVORTSRCWTGYKBWKET
ULATFQHA EHCVGHIIDGEMOAUKUTHEBIRDSQOJU CXT
LECHHNLSRHUNITRWNYYHWZRCSSSENKRADFOY MRAOH
AHIEAIRNUNIKALZINVSSBLADEZCSDRGIGGLESJRE
KVRDVUJCJTIDHJLP AEPNVBSQOOOCATPEO PLEDXCB
EBEECLKHNE XVXWRETPAIATSHFWREQDY EIZYIHRIR
PMMAMYTUCNEMOEHTHTWLTTFUDNPRMGKEUWEOTSO
LEADFAADDOPHKRIGFOQMHP CFS DXZARUPAKZFQPTO
AVNIGHTMAREONLEMSTREETPHHAN NIBALQZEDSWAD
CVADELTDLHX TENALPMORFN AMEHTZBMNYLFEHTBB D
IQZHRDDETMGHWKZDVOPGOLRTRRZQXXMDIMIBTCYK
DTTECIUJELTEEBTFYJNBGRKGELSXSBNLWFC KBAGL
PRTVAPRTEBAPMIWZOLUVUCDCYJMYYZGWYAHQBWF

WORD KEY:

- ALIEN
- ANAMERICANWEREWOLF IN LONDON
- ARACHNOPHOBIA
- ARMY OF DARKNESS
- BATS
- BLADE
- BRIDE OF CHUCKY
- BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN
- BRING IT ON
- BURIED ALIVE
- CANDYMAN
- CARNIVORE
- CARRIE
- CATACOMBS
- CAT PEOPLE
- CHILDREN OF THE CORN
- CHILDREN OF THE DAMNED
- CHILD'S PLAY
- CHREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON
- CHRISTINE
- COUNT DRACULA
- CRITTERS
- CUJO
- CURSE OF THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN
- DARK SHADOWS
- DAWN OF THE DEAD
- DEMON KNIGHT
- DRACULA
- DR GIGGLES
- EMPIRE OF THE ANTS
- END OF DAYS
- EVIL DEAD
- FLATLINERS
- FRANKENSTEIN
- FRIGHT NIGHT
- GARGOYLES
- GREMLINS
- GRIZZLY
- HALLOWEEN
- HANNIBAL
- HELL NIGHT
- HELLRAISER
- HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL
- IKNOWWHATYOU DID LAST SUMMER
- INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS
- IT'S ALIVE
- JACK THE RIPPER
- JAWS
- LAKE PLACID
- NEEDFUL THINGS
- NIGHTMARE ON LEM STREET
- THE ATTACK OF THE KILLER TOMATOES
- THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT
- SPICE WORLD

F , What is your favorite scary movie?



Sgt. James Edwards, Civil Affairs Sgt. 490th Civil Affairs Battalion

"The original Halloween is pretty good. Michael Meyer is just so creepy. He's probably one of the best villains."



Spc. John Carder, personnel clerk with 101st Soldier Support Battalion

"Titanic, because three hours of Leonardo di Caprio scares the (crap) out of me!"



Sgt. Leslie Dalmyda Civil Affairs Sgt. 490th Civil Affairs Battalion

"The Haunting. I've never been scared of any movie besides that. That was a scary movie."



Spc. Daniel Rios, administrator specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Brigade

"My (favorite) scary move is 'Scream' because it was surprising."



Col. Norman Bunton, Battalion Arms Assistant with 3-69th Armor

"My favorite scary movie is Silence of the Lamb because Hannibal is a pretty intelligent evil guy."



Pfc. Marvin Daughtry, gunner with B Company 3-7th Infantry Regiment

"The Exorcist, because it's supposed to be based on a true story."

Military police meet 60th Anniversary Challenge

**Story and photo by
Spc. Engels Tejeda
358th MPAD**

Members of the Task Force Falcon military police joined soldiers throughout the Army in completing a grueling but achievable challenge to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Military Police Corps Regiment during the month of September.

Every Sunday of the past month, members of the military police companies in Kosovo, took the 60-mile challenge. The soldiers had to complete a 10-mile run, a 35-mile bike ride, and a 15-mile foot march; all within a period of twelve consecutive hours.

"It is grueling but doable," said Spc. Justin Roman, a military policeman with the 551st Military Police Company at Camp Monteith. "It's a challenge for me and other members of my unit... it's fun and very motivating," he added while taking a break in between events.

The event was celebrated throughout the U.S. Army by order of the Military Police Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel B. Rimmer. In a memorandum to military police companies in Kosovo, the event was described as a challenge aimed at "(fostering) camaraderie and esprit de corps... A physical challenge that is rigorous, timed and focused, and demonstrates the military police warrior spirit."

"The regimental sergeant major wanted to challenge military police throughout the Army, and this is a way of testing their physical capabilities and mental courage," said Master Sgt. John Coleman, operations sergeant with the 551st Military Police Company. "It's an event that requires little outside support."

In Kosovo, the 551st Military Police Company hosted the challenge. Coleman said any soldiers who wanted to participate had the opportunity to try it. He said that military police were given precedence, since only so many soldiers could take the challenge per day due to the amount of bikes available. The United Nations Mission in Kosovo Police (UNMIK-P) had loaned the bikes to his unit to



Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Dean, platoon sergeant with 551st Military Police Company, completes "The 60-Mile Challenge" at Camp Monteith in eight hours and 52 seconds. Soldiers of the 551st Military Police Company took "The 60-Mile Challenge" as they celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Military Police Corps Regiment. The soldiers had to complete a 10 mile run, a 35-mile bike ride, and a 15-mile foot march with a 20-pound rucksack on their back during a 12-consecutive-hour period.

hold the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Dean, platoon sergeant with 551st Military Police Company, said that the challenge was also a way to show the pride the military police have in the Military Police Corps. Dean completed the events in eight hours and 52 seconds.

Most military police said that the most difficult part of the challenge was the bike ride, "because it is so long." Others said that the last event, the ten-mile march, was probably the "most difficult part because you have

to carry a 20-pound rucksack."

Sgt. Maj. Terry McManus of the 716th Military Police Battalion led the way, completing the challenge in six hours and 28 minutes. Staff Sgt. William Shively followed closely, finishing at six hours and 49 minutes, and Lt. Col. Gregory Kammerer, commander of 3-7th Infantry Regiment, six hours and 59 minutes.

All soldiers who completed the challenge within the 12 consecutive hours period received a certificate from the military police regimental command sergeant major.

The 52nd Mobile Air Staging Facility takes patients out of Kosovo

**Story and photo by
Spc. Travis Bascom
358th MPAD**

More than 400 people have been air evacuated out of Camp Able Sentry under the watchful medical care of the Air Force's 52nd Expeditionary Air Staging Squadron (Mobile Air Staging Facility) since the unit set up camp here.

When a soldier from Task Force Falcon or Operation Essential Harvest becomes injured or ill, and the proper medical care is not in the surrounding area, then the 52nd Mobile Air Staging Facility takes control.

The transition occurs at Camp Able Sentry's Staging Facility where the Army delivers the patients to the watchful care of the Air Force.

For instance, 551st Military Police Company's Pfc. Damien Bednar, and 11th Engineers Battalion's Spc. David Debow, were two soldiers that fell into this category.

Carried by a Black Hawk from Camp Bondsteel to Camp Able Sentry's Air Staging Facility the soldiers prepared for departure to Ramstein Airbase, Germany where they will undergo more extensive medical analysis. If their conditions cannot be properly diagnosed, then they may be sent to the United States for further treatment.

Vital signs are taken of the patients and special precautions are addressed due to the high altitude of the flight, but the care doesn't stop there. A nurse and two medics, all with extensive training for high altitude environments, will fly with the soldiers equipped with a truck-load of medical supplies in case of a mid-flight medical emergency.

"It feels good to know that they are taking care of us," said Bednar as he prepared to load the C-130. "I'm relieved to be going to get this problem taken care of."

"The 52nd is looking after us. I like that," said Debow. "They're taking all necessary precautions."

With the helping of patients

comes a sense of pride that the 12 airmen in the 52nd can share.

"I see it as an honor. I see it as a privilege to take care of our people," said Capt. Antoinette Shinn, Commander of the 52nd Mobile Air Staging Facility.

"This is a good job," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Muna, an airman with the 52nd Mobile Air Staging Facility who helped escort the patients

to the airfield. "I enjoy being out here making a difference and it also gives us a chance to hone our medical skills."

With all this support by their side, Bednar and Debow will hopefully be back soon to carry on with their deployment.

"I just want to get there, get back and continue my mission," said Bednar.



The 52nd Mobile Air Staging Facility loads a C-130 with supplies needed for flying patients to Germany.

The 501st can keep home just a phone call away

**Story and photo by
Spc. Marshall Thompson
358th MPAD**

A serpentine mass of cables connects a twenty-foot diameter dish to a trailer chucked full of wires, knobs, and technical looking devices bearing even more technical names and acronyms.

Who could master this writhing beast of frequencies, amps, and electricity? Bravo Company of the 501st Signal Battalion seems to fit the bill for a protagonist in this epic. Staff Sgt. Robert Kane, a senior satellite communications team chief, has had years of experience wrangling the radio waves and connecting soldiers to their homes while on deployment.

Kane was one of the first on the ground in Bosnia and is now part of the 3A rotation in Kosovo. He described what his platoon could do for soldiers upon arriving in a theater.

"When we roll into an area and there's nothing around, we might have a guy from Topeka, Kansas that hasn't talked with his wife for a long time. Sitting there on a hill top with three trucks, we can let him call his wife," Kane said.

Even though this is not a new theater of operations there are still remote bases with soldiers in need of some good communication.

"Eagle's Nest, for example, has no phones and no Internet access," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert L. Tuller, a platoon sergeant with Bravo Company of the 501st Signal Battalion. "That terrain is far away, but we can give soldiers at Eagle's Nest the same capabilities as soldiers at Camp Bondsteel."

Tuller said that when the Ground Safety Zone was being closed down the operation was too far away from headquarters to use



Sgt. 1st Class Robert L. Tuller, platoon sergeant with Bravo Company of the 501st Signal Battalion and Staff Sgt. Robert Kane, a satellite communications team chief with the 501st, stand in front of the 20-foot satellite dish they use to communicate with Germany.

SINGARS to communicate. A re-transmission team was sent out half way to catch the signal and then send it again back to headquarters.

Not only can Bravo Company of the 501st Signal Battalion provide soldiers with reliable communication back home, but they can provide it with speed.

"The standard is an hour and a half to have all the communications set up and camouflaged, but I've gotten it done in an hour and five minutes once," Kane said.

Besides giving soldiers in the field the

ability to call home, they also can provide secure phone lines to Germany and Internet access.

"If you think of things like a wagon wheel, we're the center of the wagon wheel," said Sgt. Fred Bunkley, a network switching systems operator with Bravo Company of the 501st Signal Battalion.

The training required for the signal jobs can take as long as 36 weeks said Kane. All this training and experience goes into serving their fellow soldiers in an important way.

Both day and night the 1-58th Air Traffic Control watches the Kosovo sky

**Story and photo by
Spc. Travis Bascom
358th MPAD**

Soldiers from B Company of the 1-58th Air Traffic Control have a bird's eye view as they overlook the flight pads of Camp Bondsteel.

Located in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the unit provides Air Traffic Control for all Kosovo Force (KFOR) aircraft within Camp Bondsteel's area of jurisdiction, which is a five-mile radius from Camp Bondsteel and anything above 5,000 feet.

With an average of 140 movements a day, with a mixture of foreign helicopters with foreign pilots, the members of B Company have quite the task.

"It's a good thrill. I want to make the best of it and learn all I can," said Spc. Ralph E. McCoy, Air Traffic Specialist with B Company of the 1-58th Air Traffic Control. "We see a lot of different aircraft and talk with pilots from all over the place."

Staff Sgt. Jerry Brock, tower chief for B Company of the 1-58th Air Traffic Control, said it's a challenging job.

"You can have multiple aircraft from multiple nationalities. They don't always speak English



Spc. Ralph E. McCoy with the B Company of the 1-58th Air Traffic Control, mans the tower overlooking Camp Bondsteel.

and that can create a real challenge," said Brock.

The unit is in charge of 24 hour observation on both towers on Camp Bondsteel. The Visual

Flight Rule tower, which is used on visually clear days, and the Instrument Flight Rule tower, which is used on visually lacking days are constantly manned.

"Our only mission is 24 hour observation in the towers," said Brock. "The young guys get to spend a lot of time learning their job and seeing if they like it."

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki comes to Kosovo

**Story by
Spc. Travis Bascom
358th MPAD**

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, addressed a multitude of troops at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

The purpose of his visit was two-fold. He honored soldiers that had previously risked their lives to save another and he inform members of Task Force Falcon that the Army is still strong and running despite the recent terrorist attacks.

As Shinseki spoke to the charged crowd, he reminisced about his experience in Vietnam, when, as a soldier, he stepped on a land mine that took part of one of his lower extremities. He expressed gratitude and respect for the medic and the soldier who carried him to safety and through proxy was thanking them now.

"Now I'm here, 31 years later, before another medic and another soldier to pay them back for all they have done," said Shinseki. He then presented Sgt. Christine Roberts, flight medic with the 50th Medical Company, the Soldier's Medal, the highest medal a soldier can receive during peacetime and Pfc. Joshua Beavers, C Troop 1st Cavalry Brigade Reconnaissance

Troop, the Army Commendation Medal.

While presenting the medals, he spoke of his previous visit, months ago, with Sgt. Richard Casini, C Troop 1st Cavalry Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, the soldier that had received severe and life threatening injuries from the land mine.

"I wanted him to understand that his life as a soldier need not be over," said Shinseki. "He told me that I ought to thank Roberts for what she had done." That is exactly what Shinseki did.

During the second round of his speech, Shinseki expressed to the soldiers his desire to be here.

"I chose to come. I wanted to see our soldiers on the ground," said Shinseki.

In addition, he wished to inform the troops of the Army's standing after the September 11th attack.

"The Army has not gone wobbly. We are fully operational," said Shinseki. "We are taking care of our wounded. We are paying our final respects, and there will be a reckoning," added Shinseki.

"You are on the front-line. We are counting on you to do your mission out here that you do so very well," said Shinseki.

The General's speech appeared to boost morale among the listeners.



Photo by Spc. Jessie Gray

Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, awards several soldiers his General's coin for excellence.

"It was very inspiring, very touching to hear how the Army is handling things back home," said Pfc. Terrence D. Blue, co-training room assistant for 3-7th Headquarters Headquarters Company.

"He lifted my spirits. It was an honor to meet him," said Spc. Larry J. Jenkins, personal security detachment for the Headquar-

ters Headquarters Company 2nd Brigade.

In gratitude for his visit, Task Force Falcon presented Shinseki with a bronze sculpture of a Falcon at the end of his speech.

Before departing Shinseki awarded 40 additional soldiers, coins for their outstanding performance.

The jungle penetrator may be your only lifeline if you are trapped in a mine field

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Gary Peterson
358th MPAD**

Surrounded by land mines in a deep-forested area, a mine blast victim waits for a miracle. Knowing that there is no place to land a helicopter, and too many mines for a ground rescue, the victim begins to lose hope.

When all hope seems to be lost, a camouflaged angel attached to a jungle penetrator descends from a UH-60 Blackhawk hovering overhead.

"In this country, [the jungle penetrator] can be used in a mine field where you can't land a helicopter," said Maj. Steve Millward, commander of the 50th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). "It provides a precision extraction that you are looking for in that situation."

Millward and his flight crew, with the help of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 2-17th Cavalry Regiment, trained several members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK) on how to use the jungle penetrator in scenarios like the one above.

"The TMK is a medical emergency response unit," said Capt. Bruce Finklea, fire support officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 2-17th Cavalry Regiment. "This training will help them to go out and rescue the local people of Kosovo."

Sgt. David Dalson, crewchief for 50th Medical Company, said that this type of training is essential to get a

first responder on the ground to assist a mine strike victim.

"Our crews have had two live hoists already," said Dalson. "In a land mine incident, they hoisted Sgt. Casini, and in a HMMWV roll over we hoisted our medic down to get her on the seen."

Millward said the more training they do like this with the TMK on the ground, the better off the TMK are going to be when they need to deal with a helicopter.

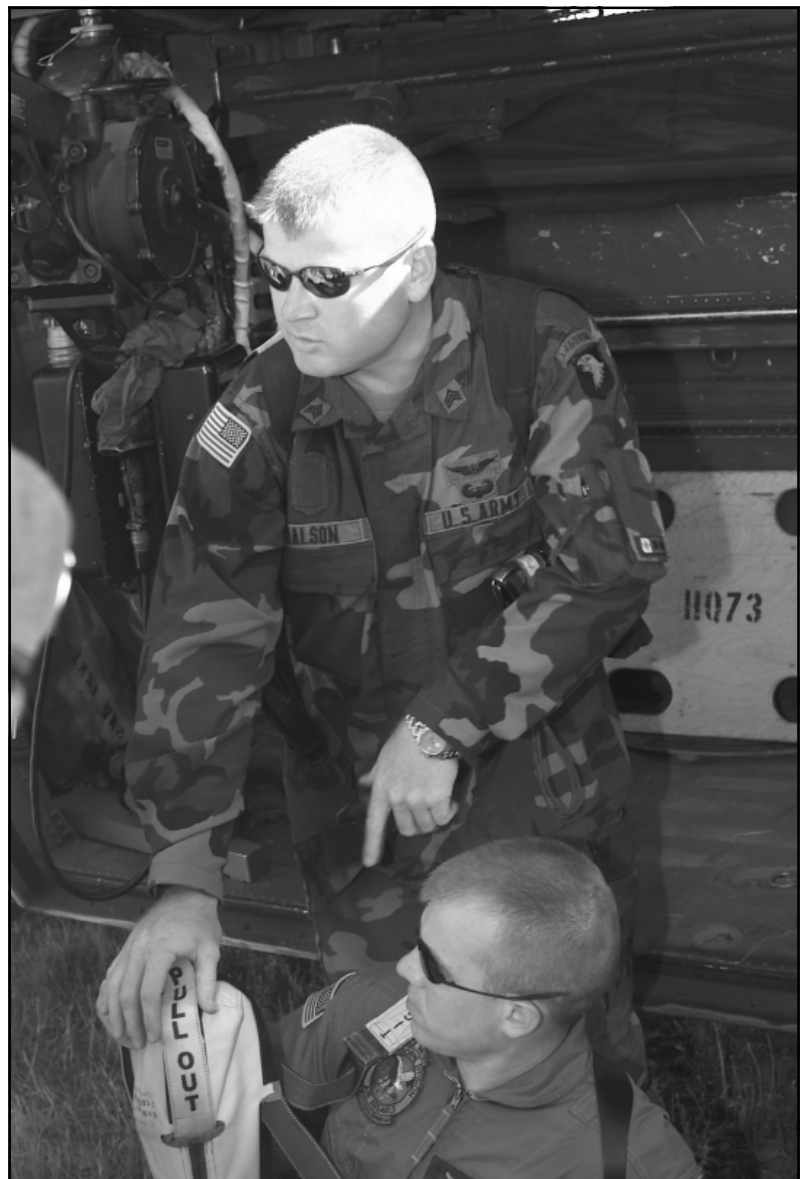
"There are a lot of mine fields in the Kosovo border, and there is a lot of mountainous areas where, if someone got hurt, helicopters would not be able to land," said Finklea. "This will help them assist KFOR with evacuating their locals."

Finklea added that the TMK learned a lot from this training.

"It gives them a better sense that we are here to help them," said Chief Warrant Officer Randall Cox, 50th Medical (Air Ambulance). "Knowing that we are willing to work with them gives the TMK the ability to accept that we are here to help."

Randall said that this training also helps the TMK to understand that we are here to help all of the Kosovo people.

"One of our goals is to improve Kosovo and leave it better than we found it," said Millward. "If we can do it through this training with the TMK, that will actually go out there and help the communities in disasters, I think we have done our part."



Sgt. David Dalson, crewchief for the 50th Medical Company demonstrates how to use the jungle penetrator.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Lee

An American soldier from A Company of the 3-7th Infantry Regiment places a candle on the ground along those left behind by others in Gnjilane/Gjilan. The citizen of Gnjilane/Gjilan gather at the theater square to show their support and sympathies for Americans after the bombings in New York City and Washington D. C. on September 11.



Photo by Pfc. Marshall Emerson

Spc. Edward Jalovec (Right) and Sgt. Lene Maiava (Left) from the C Company of the 11th Engineers, are placing a C-4 plastic explosive charge to demolish a tree that is obstructing the area where the engineers are building a bridge across a river in Mijak, Kosovo on September 28, 2001. The 11th Engineers are in Mjak to build a bridge across a river so that the villagers of Mijak can safely cross the river.



A Flag and casket adorned a Task Force Falcon Fire Department truck after the September 11 attacks. All of the Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo emergency personnel gathered for the funeral on October 11.



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki awards the Soldier's Medal to the 50th MED Air Ambulance on October 5. Gen. Shinseki visited the Task Force Falcon and presented awards and coins to a number of personnel in support of Operation Joint Guardian II.



Photo by Spc. Jessie L. Gray

on Fire Department truck as it drives in a memorial procession for the remembrance of emergency response personnel who lost their lives on the Septem-
osovo emergency services teams including; Military Police, Fire Department, and Task Force Medical Falcon personnel participated in the procession on



Photo by Sgt.1st Class Martin J. Cervantez

s the Soldier's Medal to Sgt. Christine Roberts of
en. Shinseki visited Kosovo to address soldiers of
l coins to a number of soldiers currently deployed



Photo by Spc. Christina Ann Bennett

Spc. Michael Campbell, 2nd Brigade of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, with the assistance
of a Polish Ukrainian Battalion(POLUKRBAT) soldier dismantles the brake rotors of a High Mobility Multi-
Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV).

